

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

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550 SOUTH VERMONT AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020

Reply To: (213) 738-4601
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July 06, 2010

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING FROM THE
EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval to accept federal grant funds for food and shelter vouchers to serve Department of Mental Health clients.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to accept federal grant funding from the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program (EFSP), in the amount of \$62,000, to provide food and shelter for Department of Mental Health (DMH) clients in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to accept future EFSP grant funding awards for the provision of food and shelter vouchers, provided that the Director of Mental Health notifies your Board in writing within 30 days of the acceptance of such awards.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allow DMH to accept the award of \$62,000 in EFSP Phase 28 funding, passed through the United Way, to provide food and shelter resources to clients receiving mental health services in each of the County's eight service areas (Attachment). Agencies were allowed to apply for up to \$10,000 maximum for each funding category. The EFSP, through a

formula based on resources needed, taking into account the volume of qualified applicants for each Service Area, determined the final amount of award to be granted to DMH. The timeline for expenditure of these funds extends through October 31, 2010. In addition, approval will allow the Department to accept future EFSP grant funding to provide additional food and shelter services to DMH clients.

The EFSP was established in 1983 to supplement and expand the capacity of local social service agencies to help people with economic emergencies. DMH has many clients across the County that are in need of food and shelter resources related to poverty, homelessness and financial crisis. In addition to the normal profile of DMH clients, DMH has seen an increase in the number of requests for services, including assistance with food and shelter, from individuals and families that have not traditionally sought DMH services. The current economic crisis, including a record number of foreclosures and unemployment, has had a significant impact on the mental health of the residents of Los Angeles County. DMH continually seeks to identify funding and develop programs to meet the needs of these individuals. At present, only clients in programs with Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds have access to assistance with food and motel vouchers through MHSA Client Supportive Services (CSS) or flex funding.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions support the County's Strategic Plan Goal 2, Children, Family, and Adult Well-Being, and Goal 4, Health and Mental Health.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no increase in net County cost.

The Department will utilize these funds to purchase \$30,000 in grocery gift cards and \$32,000 in motel vouchers through October 31, 2010, for a total of \$62,000 in food and shelter assistance, fully funded by federal EFSP grant funding. Funding for this action will be included in the Department's 2010-11 Supplemental Budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Only non-profit organizations and government agencies are eligible to receive EFSP funding. These funds are to be utilized by programs currently providing services to clients and cannot be used to start programs or prevent their closure. Further, EFSP national board regulations state that all those receiving funds must certify that the funds will be used to supplement and extend existing programs and will not be used to substitute or reimburse ongoing programs and services. These funds may be used for costs associated with providing food and shelter vouchers. Food vouchers may be purchased from restaurants or grocery stores. Shelter vouchers, typically for motels, may be issued to provide temporary shelter for a client for up to 30 days. DMH is currently only able to fund food and motel voucher assistance through the MHSA Full Service Partnership CSS flexible funding. The EFSP funding will allow the Department to provide additional resources for clients that are not eligible for Full Service Partnership program services.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

7/6/2010

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Board approval of the proposed actions will allow DMH to address the food and shelter needs of DMH clients, many of whom are homeless.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mg Southard", written in a cursive style.

MARVIN J. SOUTHARD, D.S.W.

Director

MJS:MF:LR

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chairperson, Mental Health Commission

Los Angeles

Emergency Food and Shelter Program

Local Board

Regional Breakdown for EFSP 28 Allocation

Your agency has been selected for a Phase 28 award of \$62,000. The following is the regional breakdown for County of Los Angeles, Department of Mental Health:

	SPA 1	SPA 2	SPA 3	SPA 4	SPA 5	SPA 6	SPA 7	SPA 8
Served Meals	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Food	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$5,000
Shelter	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Voucher	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$2,500

**United
Way**


c/o United Way

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